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1 EASTERN INTERIOR SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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3 ROUND-TABLE WORK SESSION

4

5 Fort Yukon Community Hall

6 October 5, 1999

7 9:00 a.m. o'clock

8 Fort Yukon, Alaska

9

10 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

11

12 Charles Miller, Chairman

13 Nathaniel Good

14 David Murphy James

15 Gerald Nicholia

16 Knowland Silas

17 Calvin Tritt

18 Lincoln Tritt

19

20 Vince Mathews, Regional Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 9:08)

CHAIRMAN MILLER: I guess we can get started now, Vince.

MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, we're ready. Okay, Mr. Chairman, if you look at the agenda, and for the public there's agenda's back there. It's a little bit awkward at this moment because we have a work session before we go through roll call and all that. But basically this work session is just to go over what's going to happen in the next couple of days. To answer questions about what's going to be presented, not the actual details and et cetera. And that way Staff can kind of get an idea of how this is going to work. So this is a work session. I think that for those that attended last night, David has some comments about work sessions too, so it might be when we get into this you may want to share those comments.

All right. Well, obviously this is Eastern Interior Regional Subsistence Advisory Council. You have your agenda in front of you. We were trying to do this as a joint meeting with the Yukon Flats Advisory Committee. I do see some of the members here. Maybe when we get into introductions of various Staff and councilmembers here we'll ask them to identify themselves. They did meet last night and all yesterday, they covered quite a bit of material. If you look at the agenda, you will see that it essentially is called to order, establishing a quorum, et cetera. I'll ask David if he had time to invite any elder to come and speak? I never had a chance to talk to David about that.

MR. JAMES: Yeah, I was going to have him come in at lunch.

MR. MATHEWS: After lunch?

MR. JAMES: Yeah, I guess afternoon.

MR. MATHEWS: And Mr. Chairman, I think your policy has been or the way the council has worked, when an elder does show up, we generally break out of the agenda and let them speak since their schedule may not be as flexible as ours.

Okay, agenda, additions and corrections. We could look at some now and we could approve them later, so we'll wait on that. The minutes are in your book under one of the

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1 tabs. You get them in the mail ahead of time, various people
2 look at them very closely and make corrections, and then I
3 share those with Chuck if they're a major shift in the topic
4 or presentation, but if they're basic spelling or misuse of
5 a word then I just correct them. So you'll see in there
6 strike-outs, where the line goes through, those are the wrong
7 use of the word. Anyway, there was a few there. So the
8 minutes, I'll ask you when we go into the meeting if this
9 style is still fine with you and, et cetera.

10
11 Okay, the fisheries management discussion comes up
12 next. And the way that's structured is a progress report on
13 those various issues. The reason the issue numbers are
14 there, is in your book under Tab C is the actual
15 implementation plan so those issues, like issue three is
16 directly related to that fisheries implementation plan.
17 Peggy Fox is coming in today. She will be presenting the
18 fisheries section, all those different issues. And then it's
19 broken down to action recommendations needed. That one I
20 think we'll have quite a bit of discussion on. The next one
21 Regional Council structure, basically, I'll be presenting the
22 various options that have been brought up to-date. There
23 could be other options of how to deal with cost, you know,
24 through the whole drainage. So anyways, we'll be talking
25 quite a bit about that. And then we'll come into customary
26 trade, which is an important topic that George will be
27 presenting. And remember these are mainly dialogue times to
28 talk about different things and, et cetera. So you're
29 comfortable with doing that. So each of these topics will be
30 brought up. I'm not sure how the progress report will be
31 done so there may be some additional handouts for you.

32
33 Okay, then there's the November training session
34 agenda development. That has changed and we haven't had time
35 to talk to all of you. It was projected to be in November
36 but due to scheduling and due to the potential that the State
37 Legislature was going to take some kind of action it's been
38 rescheduled to January but I don't know the dates. Ida will
39 probably have those dates. It will most likely be a week
40 long session in Anchorage where all councilmembers from
41 across the state, plus various staff, plus guest speakers
42 will attend. So that gives you an idea of what that is, and
43 we're not having you travel in November for any kind of a
44 training.

45
46 And then, of course, there's regional council
47 comments and recommendations. Pete did give you a copy of
48 the Federal Register that has the full regulations in it. At
49 this point I don't think we will spend much time with it but
50 there may be concerns in it and by the next meeting, I'm

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1 pretty sure, Michelle might know differently, that we will
2 have a regulations booklet out kind of like your blue book,
3 which I don't have here. Some kind of easier format than the
4 Federal Register will be available, and that's coming up.
5 Now, if you guys have any questions on this stuff, please ask
6 as far as how it's going to be presented, what you need to do
7 and all that. Just interrupt me. But the key thing on
8 fisheries is, ask now what you don't understand, because
9 you're going to essentially have two of the key planners.
10 You're going to have Peggy Fox, who's with our program, the
11 Office of Subsistence Management, excuse me, and then Ida
12 Hildebrand with Bureau of Indian Affairs. Both of them are
13 heavily involved in the planning process.

14
15 Then in the afternoon, after the elder's statement,
16 you guys submitted a letter to the solicitor a question about
17 fisheries management, and what is considered adjacent waters.
18 He's agreed to be on teleconference in the afternoon. So you
19 may want to start thinking of questions. But realize this
20 has just gone into effect so there may not be a lot of
21 answers to your questions -- or specific answers to your
22 questions.

23
24 Okay, then that brings us into out of fisheries and
25 into possibly tomorrow on the agenda, there we have -- we
26 played with this in the agenda for quite a few years to where
27 we're at now, and you can change it, but we have different
28 reports. As you know the Chair, Chuck, goes to different
29 meetings associated with the Federal Subsistence Board, and
30 so we may want to discuss those, we'll assist as the Staff on
31 that. So we'll give some report, I may have it double
32 entered in your -- of the outcomes of the Board. You have
33 that in your book and you should have gotten it in the mail
34 but we'll try to summarize that for you.

35
36 Hopefully there'll still be members of the Yukon
37 Flats Advisory Committee here to discuss things. If they're
38 not here due to travel arrangements we may want to move them
39 up earlier at some point because they did take some actions
40 last night that they may want to present to the council, I'm
41 not sure on that.

42
43 Anyways, then there's a section there for other
44 member's reports. Many of you are on advisory committees.
45 Nat Good's on an advisory committee, Chuck Miller's on an
46 advisory committee. Or there may be other activities that
47 you're involved with. Both those two members, Chuck and Nat,
48 are involved with the Fortymile Caribou Management Plan, so
49 they may want to talk about that. Probably that will be the
50 time when -- I think Bob was here but I'm not sure, but Bob

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1 Stephenson will speak later on the status of the community
2 quota for Yukon Flats villages.

3
4 Okay, some of you attended -- I'm not sure, Chuck
5 might have attended, but if not, Park Service may have
6 something to say about Subsistence Resource Commissions. As
7 you know you appoint a member to Denali and you appoint a
8 member to Wrangell-St. Elias. Right now we don't have any
9 appointments pending but there may be some issues that need
10 to be discussed. And I can't remember if we have some
11 correspondence from Wrangell SRC.

12
13 Okay, then we get into the main bulk of the meeting.
14 This time we have two topics, fisheries and agency reports,
15 and you can see the list there. Council of Athabascan Tribal
16 Government, I believe, will have some things to talk about.
17 I'm not sure if Tanana Chiefs has any topics but they might.
18 And then the local villages and tribal councils may want to
19 discuss items. So this is the time for them to do that.

20
21 Okay, then Alaska Department of Fish and Game. When
22 I put this agenda together that's the name that was
23 available. I believe Polly Wheeler, if there are topics to
24 be brought up from the Subsistence Division, will be giving
25 that. My understanding is Craig Gardner will be making this
26 meeting. I thought David James might be coming in today, and
27 then we have -- I don't know why -- oh, Bruce Dale, area
28 biologist, but I think David will cover those. So Craig is,
29 it's my understanding that he's coming in today. And he's
30 going to mainly talk about the Fortymile plan that is in your
31 book under agencies.

32
33 Okay, commercial fisheries, I believe Keith Shultz
34 will be here and Bonnie will be here to answer any questions.
35 I don't know if they're going to give a status report on
36 fisheries, they may. Remember we're going through a
37 transition now where we have more dual management under
38 fisheries. I didn't talk to them directly because of the
39 pending action in the Legislature so we may have to talk to
40 them on breaks on what they feel that they will be
41 presenting, if at all, presenting. And sport fish, John Burr
42 is here, and the same thing. Generally they've always talked
43 at your meetings anyways, but we'll have to see where that's
44 going to fall out.

45
46 Bureau of Land Management, I'm not sure if Ruth's
47 going to be here -- oh, she is, okay. So she may bring up
48 some topics from Bureau of Land Management since she is now
49 assigned to your region and she has been, for years, going to
50 your meetings but now my understanding is she does Eastern

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1 and Dave Yokel does Western Interior.

2

3 Okay, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bob Stevens will be
4 here. Bob Stevens will be here to talk about the update on
5 the Migratory Bird Treaty Amendments. And basically he's
6 going to present what you've had before on these management
7 -- well, we didn't have the management bodies before, but the
8 need to create some management bodies to deal with that
9 spring and summer waterfowl hunt, and they're going to ask
10 your advice on that. And that's also in the materials in
11 your book.

12

13 Okay, then each refuge may speak if they have topics.
14 I know Greg has reports for Arctic. And Ted and Greg, I
15 think, have reports for Yukon Flats. Tetlin, I believe Bob
16 Schulz is going to be here, but I don't know when he's
17 arriving. I think Pete said for sure he is coming, but if
18 not we have an issue to address in that area.

19

20 National Park Service comes up. There's Staff here
21 from Wrangell-St. Elias, and I believe Hollis Twitchell is
22 coming in later today. And I met with him -- Knowland and I
23 met with him last week and I don't remember the topics but I
24 think there is a topic or two he wanted to talk about that's
25 going on with Denali National Park.

26

27 Okay, so that brings us to the agency reports. Those
28 are up to you to define, you know, how you want that done.
29 Meaning, most of the presenters come in with, you know, the
30 key points of what they want to present. If you want more
31 than that you need to ask them questions so they'll have
32 direction on that. And realize if you get into quite a bit
33 of detail they may not have that material ready or be
34 prepared to answer those types of questions.

35

36 You also have a guest here, the Executive Director
37 from Yukon River Fisheries Drainage Association. I think to
38 accommodate travel schedules we may want to move his comments
39 when the fisheries come in. You'll notice under annual
40 report I have it listed there. The reason I have it listed
41 there is because I was just generating potential topics for
42 the annual report. So it may be more appropriate to discuss
43 how YRFDA has worked to manage -- well, involved with the
44 management drainage wide. It may be more appropriate to do
45 that during that fisheries discussion. So that's up to the
46 Chair how you want to deal with that. The annual report, it
47 may or may not be a topic, I don't know so that's why I
48 listed it there.

49

50 The annual report we do each year. You don't have to

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1 do an annual report. There may not be topics that you want
2 but generally I encourage you to write an annual report and
3 so we'll have to look at that time at topics. Then what
4 happens is I take them back or if someone wants to volunteer
5 to write them up, we write them up in draft form, circulate
6 them by the Chair and then they're back before you next
7 spring to look at. So the annual report has been quite
8 productive for this council. But it may be at this time
9 there may not be topics so we'll have to see when we get to
10 it.

11
12 Okay, then we're into the real reason for the meeting
13 but it's dependent on the agency reports to do the next part.
14 The fall meeting is generally to look at potential proposals.
15 Now, I don't know, maybe Pete or George, I asked two weeks
16 ago if any proposals were submitted already from the Eastern
17 Interior, the response was no.

18
19 MR. SHERROD: We have those Southcentral
20 ones.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, the Southcentral ones,
23 yeah, the deferred ones.

24
25 MR. SHERROD: The ones to shut down the
26 seasons, that will affect.....

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, I didn't know that.

29
30 MR. SHERROD: Yeah, there's a proposal to
31 shut down the Nelchina.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, then we do have some
34 proposals to bring up.

35
36 MR. SHERROD: They can at least comment on.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, I didn't know that. He's
39 talking about proposals to shut down the Nelchina.

40
41 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Do you have a copy of that
42 proposal?

43
44 MR. SHERROD: I didn't bring one with me.
45 It's not in print but I bet we can get them faxed.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. We do have the deferred
48 proposal from last year in with the elimination of evidence
49 of sex requirement for moose in Unit 11 and 13. That's
50 brought before you this year. I'm not really sure what we're

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1 supposed to do with that proposal at this time but I think
2 what we will do is go over what you felt in the past and some
3 basic information on it and maybe it is a survey question, I
4 don't know. We'll have to get better prepared for that, that
5 will be back before you.

6
7 Proposal generation. The public can bring up
8 proposal ideas. You guys can go ahead and endorse them
9 saying we support the proposal from the Council of Athabascan
10 Tribal Government or support the one from Stevens Village.
11 As we've talked in the past there may be proposals that you
12 want to put in a companion proposal. Many of you have worked
13 with the State system and with the Federal system now for
14 quite a few years. Companion proposals, you know, sends a
15 strong signal to the Board and to the public that this body
16 supports exactly the same proposal or very similar to the
17 same proposal as another group or individual. So there may
18 be some proposals coming from the floor. There was
19 discussion last night about brown bear but I'm not sure what
20 all that meant.

21
22 Let's see, I put down here -- this agenda was
23 generated back in July, reviewing Alaska Board of Game's call
24 for proposals, we'll have to turn to the State on that. I
25 don't think the call for proposals is out for Interior. I'm
26 not sure.

27
28 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, it is.

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: It is out. I didn't bring a
31 copy.

32
33 MR. NICHOLIA: October 29th, I think, for the
34 Interior.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: December 10th is when the
37 proposals are due. You may want to look at that. You know,
38 again, you work for the Federal system but that doesn't
39 prevent you from submitting proposals to the State system.
40 You've done it in the past, actually for this area for beaver
41 if I remember correctly. So I'm not sure how we want to
42 handle that but I think it's a lead-in to the future that
43 with Board of Fisheries issues you're going to have to
44 understand both regulatory cycles to take advantage of both
45 of those systems. So you'll be looking at Board of Fisheries
46 stuff, if you so desire. Because of the dual management it
47 might be wise to do that. So I don't know if Jim's going to
48 be here today or not but there'll be other Staff here you can
49 deal with the call for proposals on. Because Interior is up
50 for March of 2000. And if I understand correctly, the Board

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1 of Game doesn't come back to the Interior for three years, so
2 they're on a three year cycle. Is it two years?

3

4 MR. NICHOLIA: Two year cycle.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: It's a two year cycle, all
7 right. So we need to work on that.

8

9 The charter's up and we can go through the charter
10 but the charter is a document to make sure that you're in
11 existence. There are some areas that you can address in the
12 charter. Correspondence, sent and received. Your policy has
13 been that when stuff comes in, when items come in, I copy and
14 send out. So I have a summary in here and I have copies, a
15 single book of all the copies if you want to look at them.

16

17 Then, as you've directed, we have elections at the
18 end of the meeting so a person's not elected cold at the
19 start of a meeting. So you have elections. You have the
20 chair position, the vice chair and secretary. If there are
21 any appointments that I've overlooked for Subsistence
22 Resource Commissions Park Service will have to advise me of
23 that but to my knowledge there is none.

24

25 And then I put down cooperative management groups and
26 subcommittees. I think when you get into fisheries, when
27 we're really into fisheries and wildlife at the same time,
28 you guys are probably going to want subcommittees a lot more
29 than you have presently. This would be a time where you
30 would say, well, so and so is the chair of X-subcommittee and
31 has now decided to resign from the council and we need to
32 fill that subcommittee position. But right now you have some
33 subcommittees but they're not very active because the topics
34 have already been addressed.

35

36 Then we go into closing comments and future meeting
37 plans. So that's the layout of the whole agenda. If you
38 have questions on how we're going to do stuff now would be a
39 time to ask.

40

41 MR. NICHOLIA: In the past, some people never
42 people show up to give their agency reports or whatever and
43 if this happens like that again we'll just go along with
44 whoever is here so that way we can keep our meeting going.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Right. They all get copies of
47 the draft agenda and right now I'm drawing a blank but most
48 of them, I think, we've sent a letter inviting them on
49 specific topics. But we also have to remember this is a
50 major event, this last -- at the beginning of this month so,

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1 you know, various staffs are scrambling to understand what
2 this all means under dual management for fisheries. But most
3 of the ones that are listed are here. There's a very good
4 showing from Alaska Department of Fish and Game and a good
5 showing from Fish and Wildlife Service, confirmation that BLM
6 will be here, and Park Service has representatives coming or
7 are here, so there's quite a few.

8
9 Any questions about how we're going to do this, this
10 is how the workshop has been in the past. I think David may
11 want to talk about his views on workshops, either later on in
12 the meeting or maybe mention now because I thought that was
13 a good point last night with the Yukon Flats Advisory
14 Committee, his views on how to handle things like we're
15 dealing with now; fisheries, moose management and things like
16 that.

17
18 MR. JAMES: Well, I was hoping James was here
19 -- yeah, he's coming over. What the issues yesterday the
20 council brought up and I guess it would be a good time -- I
21 don't know, if it would be a -- you know, what was the.....

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: No, you're being recorded, it's
24 kind of difficult to explain but when you're -- we're bound
25 by FACA, Federal Advisory Committee Act, so part of that is
26 that it be an open meeting, public meetings, so to maintain
27 that they are public then we have them transcribed. So it's
28 open, all is being recorded. So it's just like a regular
29 meeting except we're not going down -- I mean at this second
30 we're not going down this is 7A, 7B, 7C, it's just kind of an
31 open time to get an idea of where you're going with this
32 meeting and where -- how we can help as various Staff.

33
34 MR. JAMES: Well, as we were talking about,
35 the Federal Subsistence -- fishery management, yesterday, and
36 I guess we -- a lot of us are still trying to figure out how
37 management and jurisdictions play along, and we're talking to
38 the councilmembers what it is, and it's -- I guess that's why
39 I find it -- well, I guess, you know, like in work sessions,
40 you know, usually you're just around a big table, everybody.
41 I guess, I don't know, I guess we feel that this management
42 discussion should be, you know, it would be a good time to --
43 you know, that's going to take up most of the time and the
44 materials that we're going to discuss that, you know.....

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you know, we've done it
47 in the past, you know, if you guys want to, you know, put
48 more tables up here and you know, get all the people up that
49 you need up at the table so that we don't have this -- you
50 know, more like you're saying, kind of a round-table

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1 situation, we can do that. We just have -- we've just set it
2 up all this time this way but you've done that in the past
3 where you've had three or four people from different agencies
4 -- well, actually at the last meeting in Delta Junction you
5 had representatives from a village up there, you had the
6 refuge manager, you had the area biologist all up there.
7 There could be others but what I'm getting at is if you feel
8 with fisheries, and others are willing to sit in a round-
9 table, we can go to a round-table format. The only thing
10 with a round-table format is just keeping track of who's
11 speaking, and I may then have to periodically say, are you
12 wanting -- are you making a motion to this direction and et
13 cetera, so that we don't end up with everyone assuming we
14 took some kind of action but it never really went through
15 that minor formality of a motion, a second and then pass it.
16 The reason I bring that up is my past experience with
17 fisheries is we kind of got to tighten up a little bit, all
18 of us do, on motions, seconds and vote, because people are
19 affected by this. I know they're affected by wildlife, too,
20 but we need to have it clear on the record what you did. So
21 you're going to hear me and Pete and possibly George saying
22 to you, after you've done your vote, saying, you passed that
23 because -- we think it's because you believe in this or that
24 you support this or that. You guys have been doing quite
25 well on that, giving the justification. But that is what
26 carries through is the motion, the second, the vote and
27 justification. The justification usually comes in when you
28 -- you know, the motion has been seconded and you've
29 discussed it. So you might say, I, so and so support this
30 because this matches my understanding of this, and this is
31 how I've experienced it or based on the information provided
32 by the biologist or whatever. We're going to need to work
33 more on that with fisheries because it has to be clear to
34 everyone what your actions were. And you've been doing quite
35 well but you'll hear me more and more doing that. Because
36 people need to go back when this goes before the regulatory
37 bodies and understand where you're coming from. It's a minor
38 thing but it's something we need to work on, to remember all
39 the time. I know it's cumbersome, et cetera, to deal with
40 amendments and all that but if we can, then it's clear to us,
41 it's clear to the audience, it's clear to the managers and
42 then it goes forward from there.

43
44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I think what David was
45 talking about is maybe before we get started with the
46 regulatory meeting that we get some people from fisheries up
47 and just kind of like have a round-table discussion on, you
48 know, what's going on in fisheries, what do they plan on
49 doing. You know just kind of -- you know, just opening it
50 up, so to speak.

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1 MR. MATHEWS: We can still do that. I think
2 that.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Without actually taking any
5 action on anything, you'll just have.....

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS:just talking about.....

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you can do that because
12 in the agenda actions are not until the end. And then we can
13 help you and other Staff can help you if we sense that you
14 were wanting to take an action, we can note it and bring it
15 up later, I try to do that. You know, you guys will have a
16 long discussion and then one of us three will say, well, it
17 sounded like you guys were supporting an extension of the
18 brown bear season to do X, Y and Z, and then we would say,
19 we're not sure if you wanted to go forward with that, maybe
20 it'd be best to develop a proposal.

21
22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Uh-huh.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: And remember with proposals or
25 recommendations, you guys, in the past, have given us the
26 kernel of the information and then we can flesh it out and
27 bring it back to you if you want or give us some kind of
28 leeway to deal with that and then have review. So it's not
29 like you have to do all the wordsmithing right at that
30 moment. That's kind of what bogs down groups is when you try
31 to do wordsmithing by group. It can work but on contentious
32 issues where the council may be split a little bit, it's
33 easier for us to pull out at some point, evening or different
34 breaks, write up something and get it back before you,
35 project it, do whatever we need and then do some fine tuning
36 there and then when you get fairly close to it say go ahead.
37 It will speed things up if we can do that. But I understand
38 where some issues you may want to debate in quite a bit of
39 detail but if it's not like those, it's easier to pull out,
40 do some work, bring it back in. We're more comfortable if we
41 know that you approve what has been written or whatever
42 because we have to go through a whole 'nother review process
43 within the program with different agencies and it's a lot
44 easier if we can clearly say we understood the council's
45 action because this is what we got from them.

46
47 That's all I have for the work session.

48
49 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Let's take a break, 15
50 minute break.

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1 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, might as well.

2

3 (Off record)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: I just have one announcement
8 and then we'll go into the round-table discussion. We do
9 have hearing assistant devices for those that may need them.
10 You just have to check with Pete or I. Basically what's
11 happening is all that's being recorded is being transmitted
12 and you can pick them up on these and then you can adjust the
13 volume. So they're here to assist with the meeting so you
14 need to check with us. We only have a limited amount of
15 them. So with that I'll turn it back to the Chair. You
16 requested a round-table discussion on fisheries. I talked
17 during break with the State representatives for commercial
18 fisheries, sport fisheries and then I talked with Fisheries
19 Resource Office Fish and Wildlife Service and Dan Albrecht is
20 with the Yukon River Fisheries Drainage Association and asked
21 them to come up here to talk about fisheries management, how
22 they deal with fisheries management up to today, not beyond
23 today. And they've agreed to come and talk. They may need
24 to get more clarification from the council what actually you
25 want but this is what we have. And we're going to start with
26 Commercial Fisheries Division presentation to spur off going
27 into probably sport fish and then on to the other agencies.

28

29 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I guess basically what we
30 want to know is how fish is being managed now in comparison
31 to what, you know, what we might end up having to do here in
32 the future. So I guess really just give us all you can in an
33 hour.

34

35 MR. SCHULTZ: Maybe I can start off. My name
36 is Keith Schultz. I'm with Division of Commercial Fish,
37 Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Fairbanks. Bonnie
38 Borba is also here, also with the division, and together we
39 manage the fall season, fall chum salmon and coho salmon for
40 the Yukon area and also the fisheries in the northern area.
41 We were here earlier with the Yukon River Flats advisory
42 committee members and we developed two handouts. One
43 primarily deals with chinook and summer chum salmon. It's
44 what we refer to as the season summary, it provides text and
45 tables and figures that document this last season. The blue
46 covered handout, again with the ADF&G logo, deals with the
47 fall chum salmon season. And fall chum salmon season is
48 ongoing, there's many projects, they're still monitoring
49 escapement and there's actually subsistence fisheries ongoing
50 now in the Tanana River. We handed out these handouts

00014

1 earlier. Bonnie has extra copies if there's people in the
2 public that would like to have them, too, and so she'll be
3 handing them out.

4
5 To kind of give an idea of how the fisheries is
6 managed I'd like to refer to the blue handout and the first
7 -- I'm just going to refer to a couple of the figures in one
8 table, and I'd like to start on Page 15 of the blue handout.
9 It has a map of the Yukon River drainage area. And basically
10 this is the Yukon River portion of Alaska -- of the Yukon
11 River drainage and the area's divided into six districts,
12 Districts 1, 2 and 3 is primarily in the lower Yukon River
13 and District 4, 5 and 6, is primarily in the upper Yukon
14 River. I guess your advisory council deals with part of
15 District 5, most of 5(D), subdistrict 5(D), and you guys also
16 deal in the upper Tanana River, parts of subdistrict 6(C) and
17 the upper Tanana portions. But that's how, for management
18 purposes, the area is divided. And primarily most of the
19 commercial fisheries occurs in the lower Yukon, primarily in
20 Districts 1 and 2, and the vast majority of the subsistence
21 fisheries occurs in the upper Yukon, primarily Districts 5
22 and 6.

23
24 How is the fishery managed? What I'd like to kind of
25 pull out and kind of focus on and kind of give you an idea
26 would be, fall chum salmon, and I'd like to refer to Page 7
27 of this same handout. Page 7 is a map, is a table of the
28 Yukon River drainage fall chum salmon management plan. And
29 I might note that this plan was developed in cooperation with
30 the Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association through
31 various meetings and then submitted to the Board of Fisheries
32 and basically adopted as the Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's
33 Association submitted it. On the furthest left column is run
34 sizes. And at 350,000 or less there is basically, if you go
35 across the table, commercial fisheries, personal use, sports,
36 and subsistence, they're all closed because the furthest
37 right column, our targeted drainage escapement is 350,000;
38 that's what we'd like to see at a minimum to get escapement.
39 There's a footnote there for C under closures for subsistence
40 and what that allows us is if there's a particular area,
41 let's say the Tanana River, in a particular area if it looks
42 like we're meeting our escapement objective we can liberalize
43 subsistence fishing in that area but otherwise it's closed.
44 As the run sizes increase as you look down the table, 350,000
45 to 450,000, again the various elements, 450 to 550,000,
46 again, commercial, personal use, sports closed and
47 restrictions are placed on subsistence fishing. As you work
48 down the tables, the restrictions become less and less. They
49 become -- you know, fisheries become more liberalized. And
50 the very right column is what we're trying to strive for for

00015

1 drainage wide escapement, 450 to 550 we're striving for
2 375,000 escapement. As you work down this table it's only at
3 greater than 600,000 you have normal, personal use and sport.
4 And the furthest column down is greater than 675,000, only at
5 that level you even start considering commercial fisheries.
6 So that's how it's kind of laid out in practice.

7
8 What happened last year, not this last season but
9 last year, 1998, we had a run size about 400,000 fish. You
10 take that run size and apply it to this table, what happened
11 last year? Commercial -- there was never a commercial
12 period, there was not one. Personal use was closed from day
13 one, no personal use harvest. Sport fishing was closed since
14 day one, to catch and release only, no harvest there. And we
15 had severe restrictions on subsistence fisheries, we were
16 down to one day a week. Where did those things come from?
17 They came from this management plan and the run size.

18
19 What happened this year, I'd like to just kind of
20 highlight a little bit, and if we could go to Page 16. And
21 what I'm referring to is the vast majority of the commercial
22 fisheries occurs at the mouth. As the run progresses up
23 river and as they reach up in this area, by the time they
24 reach up here we have a very good handle on what the run size
25 is. But earlier in the run we have to make projections, we
26 have to estimate what the run size is going to be. So we
27 have to base it on, well, 30 percent of the run, this is what
28 we see, what we think is going to happen at the end of the
29 season. And what on Page 16 is, the map of the drainage,
30 fall chum salmon primarily spawn in the upper Yukon River
31 drainages so they're going very far. We don't have
32 escapement monitoring projects basically in the lower
33 portions, there's no -- they're not spawning down there,
34 they're heading for the upper river so great distances from
35 where the vast majority of the commercial harvest occurs.
36 And if you point out towards lower Yukon fisheries test
37 fisheries at the mouth, Mountain Village test fisheries,
38 Pilot Station sonar, those three projects are the primary
39 projects that we look at in the lower Yukon River to help us
40 determine what run size is and what to do with that
41 commercial fishery.

42
43 On Page 17, what this is is those same three
44 projects, the results of this last season. The top graph is
45 the lower Yukon test fisheries, the middle graph is Mountain
46 Village test fisheries and the bottom graph is Pilot Station
47 sonar. Fall chums are very pulse oriented fish, they usually
48 come in the storm tides, high tides, something like that.
49 It's not like a normal bell shaped curve like a lot of fish
50 entry patterns. And because of the pulse type nature it does

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1 even make it more difficult to estimate the run size and
2 season. But you can kind of see in the top graph there was
3 a total of five pulses this year before the lower Yukon test
4 fisheries quit, and then Mountain Village continued on to the
5 middle September and there's even another pulse later than
6 that, which is a very late pulse for fall chums. But what I
7 wanted to point out was how pulse one and two were very large
8 and very strong. And basically because of that it gave us an
9 impression that this was going to be a good run.

10
11 You go to Page 18, the next page, again, what we do
12 is we estimate with those projects where we're at in the run
13 and we try to project out what it's going to be like at the
14 end of the season. And if you recall back to the fall chum
15 management plan and at almost 675,000 above that level we
16 consider commercial fisheries. And because of those first
17 two pulses were very strong, by 30 percent of the run
18 normally by August 1, we made a projection and said, boy,
19 we're going to be okay, we're going to be above 675 so we
20 initiated commercial fisheries in the lower Yukon River. We
21 continued to fish down there until you can kind of see where
22 our projections fell below 675, and once it fell below 675 we
23 quit commercial fishing. In fact as the run progressed up
24 river we even closed the personal use fisheries in the Tanana
25 river to help escapements there. But this season we did not
26 initiate any subsistence restrictions, just we had limited
27 commercial, we had some personal use restrictions, closed it
28 eventually and normal subsistence fishing.

29
30 Page 20, how did this year compare? Basically the
31 subsistence harvest for 1999 were still ongoing. We are
32 still in that process to determine the subsistence harvest.
33 We have subsistence groups that start from the mouth and work
34 all the way up the Yukon River doing post-season surveys to
35 estimate the harvest. At this time we're in the Koyukuk
36 River Drainage in the middle Yukon around Ruby, so we're kind
37 of working up the river.

38
39 The commercial harvest, we ended up with about 20,000
40 commercial harvest and that's in the bottom graph, by the
41 way, very low level. But still, if we would have known what
42 we know now we wouldn't even have harvested that. But I
43 tried to explain, you know, that the situation that resulted
44 in us having commercial fishing and then we closed it. So
45 kind of a summary, that's how the fall season was managed and
46 there's a lot of difficulties in it.

47
48 We tried to take our best guess at what we believe
49 the run size is and we tried to follow that management plan
50 the best we can.

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1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any questions?

2

3 MR. GOOD: I have a question Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

6

7 MR. GOOD: In looking at the map on Page 15,
8 the division of the river, I see the Yukon is divided
9 beginning between Rampart and Steven's Village, and that
10 presumably runs all the way to the Canadian border?

11

12 MR. SCHULTZ: That's correct. 5(D) starts
13 just above the Yukon River drainage and goes all the way to
14 the border.

15

16 MR. GOOD: And now if we go up to the Tanana
17 which is six, 6(C) ends at the Salcha River, what's beyond?

18

19 MR. SCHULTZ: It's actually part of District
20 6, and you might want to even think of -- refer to it as
21 6(D), let's say, but there's no official designation for it.
22 And all the subdistricts that you see there, there is
23 commercial fishing there. But in that upper Tanana portion
24 of the drainage you might want to call 6(D), there is no
25 commercial fishing.

26

27 MR. GOOD: So the divisions that we see here
28 are really commercial fish?

29

30 MR. SCHULTZ: Yeah, they are, except for they
31 also use in management of subsistence fisheries. So a lot of
32 times when you see restrictions, we refer to subdistricts
33 when we apply.

34

35 MR. GOOD: So if I were looking at this I'd
36 say the implication is that Fish and Game doesn't do much
37 above Salcha because they don't bother to put a designator on
38 it?

39

40 MR. SCHULTZ: Well, if you look at the
41 project maps, you know, the project map, one of the major
42 spawning grounds is the Delta area.

43

44 MR. GOOD: Right.

45

46 MR. SCHULTZ: And it's identified there and
47 it's one of the projects that we do. We do receptive foot
48 surveys, in fact, last week was our first foot survey there
49 and we counted 150 chums. Typically the peak survey is not
50 until late October and early November. We'd like to see at

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1 least 11,000 chums in there, so we're just at the start.
2 But, no, I wouldn't say that, those are important -- it's
3 identified as very important spawning grounds and it's a
4 contributor to the whole fall term salmon run as a whole.
5

6 MR. GOOD: Well, knowing that that's where
7 the fish come from, I thought it was strange that they didn't
8 have it designated.
9

10 MR. SCHULTZ: Yeah, I mean, no, we've
11 actually talked about it, too, and that we can call it 6(D).
12 I mean actually in a lot of ways it is considered as 6(D),
13 it's just -- if you pull out the regulation books you won't
14 see a 6(D) there. If you look at the permits that we issue
15 for like subsistence, it's referred to as the upper Tanana
16 permit, you know, but it could be just as easily called
17 subdistrict 6(D) permit. But it's -- I don't want to --
18 Delta's an important system.
19

20 MR. NICHOLIA: Mr. Chairman.
21

22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Gerald.
23

24 MR. NICHOLIA: Dave, I have a question for
25 you. Like we know that there's going to be Federal control
26 on Federal, like Arctic National Wildlife and stuff like
27 that, is those boundaries going to affect these 5(C) or 4(B)
28 or whatever or they'll still be the same districts? Because
29 there was a lot of people around Tanana asking me how much
30 are those boundaries going to change these districts and what
31 do you foresee in that?
32

33 MR. SCHULTZ: It continues even under the
34 Federal takeover to manage the commercial fisheries. And we
35 would be looking at -- we'd follow regulations within the
36 state in managing the commercial fisheries. These
37 subdistricts, you know, to change them would require a Board
38 of Fisheries action, and in fact, there's a lot of -- there's
39 not just -- there's a lot of reasons for some of these
40 subdistricts. Like subdistrict 5(A) is the South Bank,
41 they're primary Canada bound fish. So there's not just
42 arbitrary boundaries, there's some actually biological
43 reasons for some of these boundaries, too, so they make
44 sense.
45

46 MR. NICHOLIA: Well, you wouldn't see no
47 changes then?
48

49 MR. SCHULTZ: I don't for the State, no.
50

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1 MR. NICHOLIA: Okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any other questions?

4

5 MR. L. TRITT: On the fishery management
6 area, do these people coordinate and work together on the
7 fish that goes up the river -- Yukon River? Different
8 districts, do they talk to each other?

9

10 MR. SCHULTZ: I think it was last season we
11 had one teleconference during the fall season with Yukon
12 River drainage River Fisheries Association. But there's
13 times, like last year that had the restrictions, we've had as
14 many as seven teleconferences with fishermen throughout the
15 entire drainage at the same time.

16

17 MR. ALBRECHT: I'll get into that question
18 when I talk about it.

19

20 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, because on this Page 21,
21 your commercial harvest, I notice your commercial take is
22 really erratic and it looks like you're going to have to keep
23 a closer eye on it during this time period.

24

25 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

26

27 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

28

29 MR. GOOD: Right now we've had an emphasis on
30 the salmon species, will we be talking about others as well?

31

32 MR. BURR: Yes.

33

34 MR. GOOD: Okay.

35

36 MR. BURR: We can come back to commercial
37 fisheries at any time. I just would talk about some of the
38 other kinds of fisheries in the drainage.

39

40 My name is John Burr, I work for the Sport Fish
41 Division out of the Fairbanks office. And we have our
42 efforts divided somewhat differently. If you refer back to
43 the map on Page 15 that Keith has been using. The Tanana
44 drainage, which is commercial District 6(A) through (D) now
45 it sounds like, it's managed by two area biologists, one in
46 Delta Junction, one in Fairbanks. And then the Yukon
47 drainage from border to (C) is, because of its remote nature
48 and relatively low number of fish that are taken in the sport
49 fishery, there's just one area biologist for that drainage.

50

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1 One thing that's a little bit confusing, and we're
2 called Sport Fish Division, but under State regulations sport
3 fisheries are all those fisheries conducted with a rod and a
4 reel. So it includes a lot of personal use type fisheries,
5 people that are just going out to catch fish to eat or to use
6 for whatever. But under State regulations, if you're going
7 to fish with a fishing pole you have to fish under the sport
8 fishing regulations at the current time.

9
10 The way that Sport Fish Division keeps track of these
11 fisheries in each these remote areas is with a state wide
12 harvest survey. We use this survey to monitor changes in
13 places where we see a rapid change or we get an estimate of
14 harvest effort or catch that is a lot different than what we
15 expect, then we use on-site research projects, censuses and
16 things like that to investigate these areas further. The
17 state wide progress survey has worked real well for us in
18 areas where there's a lot of participation in the fishery and
19 it has worked real well in monitoring changes in fisheries.
20 The point estimates we get for any one year tend to have
21 fairly large concen -- around them so you don't want to
22 concentrate too much on the number but you have to look at
23 the trends over a five year period or so and they work real
24 well for that. And as long as you keep that in mind it's a
25 real useful tool.

26
27 The only other thing I was going to say about rod and
28 reel fisheries is that the local harvest that occurs in the
29 Yukon drainage, for example, is just very small compared to
30 how large the area is and in comparison to both commercial
31 and the subsistence fisheries. For example, in the last five
32 year period, the total number of salmon of all species that
33 were taken through the Yukon River was about 700 fish on the
34 average and that includes all five species. So that's about
35 -- that's less than 10 percent of all the fish that are taken
36 with rod and reels in that area.

37
38 I have available, currently not here this morning but
39 I'll get them to you this afternoon, a two-sided table and
40 this just shows the sport harvest for the drainage by
41 species, salmon on the front and the non-salmon species are
42 on the back and I'll make sure everybody gets a copy of that.
43 The folks that were here for the advisory committee meeting
44 already have one of these.

45
46 The two major fresh water species that are important
47 to the rod and reel fisheries in the Yukon area are primarily
48 northern pike and grayling. Between the two of them, they
49 make up about eight percent of the catch and harvest. Both
50 of those species, particularly, northern pike, there's a lot

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1 of catch and release fishing that goes on with that, actual
2 amount of harvest is fairly small.

3
4 And I'm going to stop there and try to answer your
5 questions.

6
7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I got one question. Who
8 manages like white fish, berbit, you know, set lines, is that
9 under.....

10
11 MR. BURR: Set lines for berbit, for example,
12 are under the sport fisheries regulations. Fishing for white
13 fish with a spear, again, are under sport fishery
14 regulations, the spear fishers. However, setting white fish
15 nets, you know, for gathering fish for personal or dogs, that
16 would be under the State subsistence regulations currently.
17 And that's managed by the commercial fisheries management
18 division. So basically if it's caught with a fishhook or
19 stabbed with a spear, then it would be under the sport fish
20 regulations.

21
22 MR. NICHOLIA: So what you're saying then is
23 if my uncle or auntie was fishing with a fishhook for their
24 subsistence use you'd call that sport fishing?

25
26 MR. BURR: Under State regulations, that's
27 correct. It's not legal in the open water period. Now,
28 that's not true during the ice time, in their ice covered
29 period of the year, then there's some allowance for fishing
30 with a pole and line under subsistence regulations. But in
31 general if it's open water period and you're fishing with a
32 fishhook then you should be fishing under the sport fishing
33 regulations under State regulations.

34
35 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Under sport fish
36 regulations, is there anything dealing with subsistence or
37 anything like that?

38
39 MR. BURR: There is, in that, in rural Alaska
40 or most of it remote parts of Alaska, we have consciously
41 made the bag limits quite liberal to allow individuals to go
42 out and collect fish that way because in many cases it's the
43 most efficient, most effective way to get fish without having
44 a, you know, a bad by-catch. You know, if what you want to
45 do is catch sheefish, then the best way to catch just
46 sheefish is with a fishing pole as opposed to catching a
47 bunch of chum salmon or something at the same time. And so,
48 I mean the Board of Fish has consciously made regulations as
49 liberal as possible in remote areas to allow for that kind of
50 activity. But again, it's not called subsistence. And part

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1 of the problem here is, you know, is what do you call what
2 you're doing.

3

4 CHAIRMAN MILLER: And I guess back to white
5 fish, I guess I had a question for Keith, how is that managed
6 under commercial fishing or is it managed?

7

8 MR. SCHULTZ: During the commercial salmon
9 period every white fish that are harvested, let's say, during
10 the salmon period can be sold under the salmon permit.

11

12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: It can be sold under a
13 salmon permit?

14

15 MR. SCHULTZ: That's correct. And then we do
16 have an allowance under a permit application period for
17 people to apply for a commercial white fish -- they could
18 apply for a permit to harvest white fish and suckers and be
19 able to sell it.

20

21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: How about personal use
22 white fish?

23

24 MR. SCHULTZ: Within the Fairbanks
25 subsistence area there is a personal use white fish permit
26 application also. We've issued three of them to-date.

27

28 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any in the upper
29 Tanana?

30

31 MR. SCHULTZ: Once you get above the
32 drainage, it's back to subsistence, you're under subsistence
33 regulations. Below the drainage you're within the Fairbanks
34 non-subsistence use area, personal use and a permit has to be
35 applied for white fish or suckers.

36

37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I guess my question is, do
38 you have to apply for a subsistence permit in the upper
39 Tanana area for utilizing white fish?

40

41 MR. SCHULTZ: Yes. And it's a permit -- we
42 do an annual -- it's a free permit. We do an annual trip, we
43 visit Dot Lake, Delta, we work all the way up in the spring
44 time and issue permits. You can also walk into the Delta
45 office or Tok office and get a permit or a lot of people
46 apply for them by mail.

47

48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there a quota on that
49 permit or is it an open permit?

50

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1 MR. SCHULTZ: No sir, seven days a week, no
2 limit.

3
4 CHAIRMAN MILLER: That's all I've got. Is
5 there some other questions?

6
7 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I have one. How about
8 what do you guys do when people set fish nets under ice or
9 fishhooks, what do you consider about that?

10
11 MR. SCHULTZ: That's under the ice if you're
12 going for like white fish?

13
14 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah.

15
16 MR. SCHULTZ: You're talking about the
17 Tanana.....

18
19 MR. NICHOLIA: Mostly, you know, pike -- some
20 pike and white fish and some sheefish.

21
22 MR. SCHULTZ: You're talking about the Tanana
23 River area?

24
25 MR. NICHOLIA: There on the Yukon we do that.

26
27 MR. SCHULTZ: Yeah, there's -- it's seven
28 days a week, 24 hours a day, no limit, open permit.

29
30 MR. NICHOLIA: Okay.

31
32 MR. SCHULTZ: Besides that, that's where we
33 draw the line.

34
35 MR. SILAS: I have a question on the -- when
36 you're drawing the boundaries between State and Federal,
37 there's a clause in there that says that adjacent waters,
38 like the river -- Yukon River and adjacent waters, how far do
39 you draw the boundaries on these between State and Federal on
40 the Yukon River?

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think that'd be
43 best to wait until the following discussion on defining
44 adjacent waters and waters bounding on the area. They're
45 mainly going to talk about how management is going on up
46 until this point. And I do need to apologize to Fish and
47 Game, I failed to incorporate the Division of Subsistence in
48 this discussion for Fish and Game, because they do collect
49 the harvest. But I did talk to Elizabeth Andrews, she'd be
50 willing to speak if Polly has not shown up to cover the part

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1 that they play up to this point on collecting information
2 that deals with management. So I do apologize for that. So
3 at some point we may want to incorporate either Elizabeth or
4 Polly, if she's shown up, to discuss what role they play in
5 subsistence fisheries.

6
7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Well, I guess we'll
8 go ahead and move on down.

9
10 MR. SIMMONS: My name is Rod Simmons. I'm
11 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the fishery
12 resources office in Fairbanks. And we've been involved with
13 a number of monitoring projects with salmon in the middle and
14 upper Yukon drainage. I'll start out by mentioning that
15 we're not affiliated with any one particular refuge, although
16 most of the work we do is on refuges. So consequently we're
17 able to go and do work throughout many of the refuges in the
18 middle and upper Yukon. A lot of our work is also tied with
19 the U.S./Canada treaty process and so some of the projects we
20 do aren't necessarily occurring on a refuge. Particularly,
21 one of our larger projects on the main stem Yukon River is
22 primarily directed at supporting the Yukon River treaty. Our
23 office currently has about six biologists on staff. We do
24 monitoring projects for chum salmon spawning escapement in
25 the Koyukuk drainage.

26
27 And as I mentioned one of our larger projects on the
28 main stem Yukon River where we're generating population
29 estimates within the main stem Yukon above Tanana using a
30 mark recapture technique. And I'm sure many of you have
31 probably seen those green spaghetti tags in the fall chum.
32 We use those for marking fish and then recapturing them up at
33 Rampart and we're able to generate population estimates based
34 upon the mark recapture technique. This year our project
35 generated an estimate of about 190,000 fall chum above
36 Tanana. In conjunction with this mark recapture project on
37 the main stem Yukon, we have a cooperative project with
38 National Marine Fishery Service, and they're installing a lot
39 of radio transmitters in the fall chum in conjunction with
40 our spaghetti tagging. And through that technique we can
41 learn a lot about the movement behaviors and the stock
42 composition of the run as it occurs through the season.

43
44 One of our other tributary projects in the upper
45 Yukon drainage that we have ongoing is the Chandalar Sonar
46 Project. We've been monitoring the fall chum stocks or stock
47 on the Chandalar since 1986. And this year the sonar project
48 estimated approximately 90,000 fall chum which was by far the
49 largest escapement of any one stock.

50

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1 And more of a minor note, we have a small ongoing
2 sheefish research project that we started up in conjunction
3 with the chum marking project, in that, we saw an opportunity
4 there to learn a little bit more about our upper Yukon River
5 sheefish stock. Since we're catching these fish in fish
6 wheels, we started putting the plastic spaghetti tags on them
7 as well as putting in a small number of radio transmitters
8 and tracking their movements. And that's turning out to be
9 a very interesting project in defining where the spawning
10 grounds are for these sheefish that primarily spawn between
11 Circle and Fort Yukon, the main stem Yukon River. And as a
12 matter of fact we have a biologist and crew going out this
13 week to go do some on the ground work to learn a little bit
14 more about the actual spawning activity of sheefish and see
15 whether other white fish species are utilizing the same areas
16 for spawning.

17
18 Any questions?

19
20 MR. L. TRITT: Any consideration given to the
21 effect of all this sonar equipment on those fish, interfering
22 with their spawning?

23
24 MR. SIMMONS: The sonar itself?

25
26 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah.

27
28 MR. SIMMONS: Well, we can't detect any
29 behavior changes. Sonar is used on a lot of rivers and in
30 some of them they're in clearwater tributaries where you can
31 actually see the fish as they are traveling up river, and to
32 my knowledge, at least with salmon, there hasn't been any
33 record of the fish behavior changing when they encounter the
34 sonar beam. It's a very high frequency. There is some
35 documented evidence that there are other species,
36 particularly shad, that are not found in this part of the
37 world, but certain fish species are capable of detecting
38 sonar frequencies but we haven't detected anything along that
39 line with our salmon species.

40
41 MR. L. TRITT: Because most migrating animals
42 use those energies, you know, earth energy frequencies, I
43 guess you.....

44
45 MR. SIMMONS: Uh-huh.

46
47 MR. L. TRITT: And when you have too much
48 radio from radio frequencies starting to interfere with the
49 migration then.....

50

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1 MR. SIMMONS: Are you talking about the radio
2 transmitters or the sonar?

3
4 MR. L. TRITT: The frequencies, whatever, the
5 frequencies.

6
7 MR. SIMMONS: Yeah, the radio transmitters
8 are, you know, it's become a -- you're never 100 percent
9 certain whether or not you've affected the behavior of an
10 animal by putting a transmitter on it. I think the best we
11 can do is to minimize the effects of handling the animal,
12 whether it be a fish or game species, and so we try to
13 minimize the stress level on those animals. But there's
14 always a question as far as whether an animal is behaving 100
15 percent normally after it's been outfitted with a transmitter
16 or not. But we're certainly seeing that after the fish are
17 outfitted with transmitters, they certainly travel up to
18 their spawning grounds because we are certainly finding them
19 on the spawning grounds. The Chandalar, this year, has about
20 260 transmitters that were originally applied down at the
21 rapids area. Out of a thousand transmitters that were put in
22 about 260 are up on the spawning grounds on Chandalar right
23 now.

24
25 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, a lot of those things
26 you can just use the local people. Like I live in Arctic
27 Village and if I want to know something about the fish down
28 there, I just ask them down there and they say there's lots
29 or there's nothing, you know.

30
31 MR. SIMMONS: Yeah. A large part of the
32 rationale for this research is because it's in the mixed
33 stocks of the Yukon down above Tanana. So when I mention the
34 final outcome of where these transmitters end up it's more
35 of, well, the original question is more related to the make
36 up of these various stocks when we're in a mixed stock
37 situation in the main stem Yukon.

38
39 MR. GOOD: The law says that we'll be
40 incorporating Yukon River drainage, so that would imply all
41 of the drainages in the Yukon, however, that is not, say,
42 Eastern Interior boundaries or Western Interior, some of our
43 drainages overlap into other areas such as Southcentral, will
44 we actually do this on a drainage basis, Yukon River drainage
45 basis, alter it, say, somewhat for fisheries?

46
47 MR. SIMMONS: I'm not really capable of
48 addressing that particular question. I think maybe somewhere
49 along the lines you'll have opportunities to discuss those
50 implications but I'm really only here to talk about the

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1 ongoing monitoring and the cooperative relationship we have
2 with fish and game -- the Department and providing them
3 information to see how well the management is actually
4 occurring. But hopefully you'll get your question answered
5 today or tomorrow.

6
7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any other questions? Thank
8 you.

9
10 MR. ALBRECHT: Thank you Mr. Chairman. For
11 the record, Dan Albrecht, executive director, Yukon River
12 Drainage Fisheries Association.

13
14 And dealing with the question of what has been the
15 pattern in the past, and the involvement of our association
16 with fisheries management and this kind of goes to Mr.
17 Tritt's question, during the fishery what our main role has
18 been since 1994, well, '93, too, our main role during the
19 season has been to organize teleconferences of -- our board
20 of directors and alternates but practically speaking, anybody
21 who wants to phone in, we set up a GCI conference call with
22 an 800 number and a code to enter -- we fax it out to all the
23 villages saying, we're going to have a conference call with
24 Fish and Game, you know, 10:00 a.m., August 1st, here's the
25 dial-up number and enter code Yukon and join in the call.
26 And the way those conference calls usually go is we start off
27 with Keith Schultz, say, for example, fall chum or Bonnie
28 Borba for fall chum, or Dan Bergstrom and Vince Golembeski
29 who manage the chinook and summer chum -- so we start off
30 with, okay, Fish and Game, can you give us the assessment and
31 they're down in Emmonak or Fairbanks, depending on the time
32 of year, and they go through the sonar data and the test fish
33 data and the subsistence data that they've heard. We
34 sometimes check in with Dave Andersen from Subsistence
35 Division on what reports he's heard. After the Fish and Game
36 presentation, we then open it up to working our way through
37 everybody who's on the phone saying, okay, so and so in this
38 village, how's the subsistence effort going there, well, you
39 know, half of the people are done with their kings. You
40 know, and we go through the different villages, how's things
41 going, a lot of people say, oh, the weather's been good,
42 everybody's drying fish, so and so, and things are going
43 good. After we kind of hear that subsistence report, the
44 different reports from whoever's on the phone, and again,
45 it's open. What I usually do is I just -- I have a list of
46 people who is on the phone and I say, okay, so and so, what's
47 going on in your village -- well, the fish just showed up,
48 whatever. So from that we get a sense of, you know, how the
49 fish are moving up the river, how things are going. After
50 that, Fish and Game, will usually give its, you know,

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1 management outlook for the next week so they'll say something
2 like, okay, well, fishing District 1, 2 and 3 right now,
3 we're going to open up District 4 probably this week for a 48
4 hour period and then District 5 probably such and such date,
5 you know, 10 days from now or seven days from now, depending
6 on where they are in the run and all that. And then after
7 they kind of give their management thing we open it up for
8 questions on, you know, the management considerations.
9 People want to know -- you know, for example, in some of the
10 districts if there's a commercial period, it affects the
11 fishing schedule for subsistence, too, so people might want
12 to know when they might have to get their nets out of the
13 water or beware of the timing. Initially, it's usually
14 always seven days a week but when there's commercial fishing
15 going on it gets a little complicated.

16
17 In some years -- that's if there's -- if it's pretty
18 much a normal run and there's no subsistence fishing
19 restrictions, you know, things go pretty much informational.
20 In other years, like in the 1993 when there was the crash, in
21 '94 when the sonar said there was a crash but there wasn't,
22 we've gotten into issues of, okay, there's no commercial
23 fishing and Fish and Game says they're going to allow three
24 days a week for subsistence fishing. And when those issues
25 come up, what the teleconference calls have helped to do is
26 say, okay, District 1 and 2, subsistence fishermen down there
27 you've got three days a week to go subsistence fishing or two
28 days a week, when would you like those times to be, right.
29 Well, for the lower Yukon, you know, people during, say, for
30 example, fall chum season, they just like to drift -- they
31 drift primarily catching, so they like daylight hours, right.
32 But when we were talking, I remember in '94 for or so with
33 folks in Tanana it made sense for them, rather than having 48
34 hours in one shot, for them it made sense to have four-12
35 hour periods from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., so they just turn
36 the wheel on at night and then go check it in the morning.
37 But basically on those conference calls we were able to kind
38 of come up with a subsistence fishing schedule. In other
39 words, if the State was going to regulate it to only X
40 numbers per week, how did people want to do it in their
41 respective areas. And so that was an example where we
42 collected the input. And like I say, lower Yukon would
43 rather have it during the day and the weather's nasty and
44 windy in August and go out there in the day and try to find
45 some good weather, go out for an hour or two and make a drift
46 and bring the thing home. In the upper Yukon it was, let's
47 run the wheels at night. Some others that have used more set
48 nets wanted 48 hours because they just wanted to set their
49 nets once, leave it and then go out and check it when they
50 needed to go check. And they didn't want to set the net pull

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1 it, set the net pull it, set the net pull it, where the wheel
2 was a little easier just to turn it on and turn it off.

3

4 So that was kind of an example of things.

5

6 During the winter, the main thing we do, and it's
7 limited by funding, is we have an annual meeting every year
8 and that meeting lasts three and a half days. And a lot of
9 what we do in the winter is work on management plans like
10 Keith outlined. And that fall chum management plan has been
11 amended several times. And what we do is at the meetings is
12 we sit down and there's an even bigger gathering, it's like
13 up to 30 voting members during our annual meeting, and we
14 work on a consensus basis and we try to come up with things
15 that are agreeable to everybody on the management plans. And
16 then Fish and Game is in the room there, too, Fish and
17 Wildlife, and we try to come up with something that's
18 workable and then take it to the Board of Fisheries. And the
19 Board of Fisheries usually approves it because it's been
20 talked about amongst all the users. And I'll get more into
21 that, information about the association, because I know some
22 people have questions about it, but I'll get to that more in
23 your discussion of fisheries issues. But basically that's
24 how it works in season and off season.

25

26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any questions?

27

28 MR. JAMES: Yeah, Dan, you were talking about
29 we, who's we when you're talking about when you're working
30 with the State there making these decisions or proposals as
31 the fish move up?

32

33 MR. ALBRECHT: Yeah, well, for the conference
34 calls, like I said, the only time we've really made decisions
35 has really been sort of, like say on the subsistence fishing
36 schedule. What do people want, you know, that's appropriate
37 to their area about what hours, and like I said, that's
38 happened a few times.

39

40 During the conference calls, we don't really make any
41 decisions. I mean it's informative and people are there to
42 hear the feedback from the Department and give the Department
43 feedback. But during the summer conference calls, I don't
44 think we've really ever voted on things because it's not --
45 A, it's not really appropriate to vote because it's sort of
46 -- we're just -- and Fish and Game has the managing
47 authority, but if there was something that people really felt
48 strongly about that Fish and Game was going to do and
49 everybody thought was a big mistake and everybody on the
50 phone thought it was a big mistake, well, then we'd probably

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1 vote on it. But during the conference calls it's basically
2 information. During the annual meeting, the full delegation
3 of the association votes on proposals. And by that, I mean,
4 board of directors which is 16 people -- 16 persons, and up
5 to 14 alternates voting. So at the annual meetings we have
6 up to 30 people voting, and again, it's all consensus, so if
7 one person votes against it, it doesn't pass. And that's
8 usually like management plans for proposals to go to the
9 Board of Fisheries during the annual meeting.

10
11 MR. JAMES: Is this organization supported by
12 all the tribes or villages around the river or how is your
13 membership?

14
15 MR. ALBRECHT: The membership is based upon
16 individuals who pay their dues, for a subsistence user it's
17 \$5, for a commercial permit holder or crew member it's \$10.
18 The organization is not organized by villages it's organized
19 by districts. And people, when they become a member they
20 represent -- they say, okay, I'm from District 1 or District
21 2 and they vote for the people who represent them on the
22 association. But we don't -- I mean like I say, we're not
23 organized by villages so it's not village-based, it's not a
24 tribal organization, it's an association of users.

25
26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: How large are your
27 districts?

28
29 MR. ALBRECHT: Well, it's organized by the
30 different districts. We have basically eight -- no nine
31 district areas. We six commercial fishing districts, we have
32 the Koyukuk River which is one, we have Yukon Flats 5(D)
33 which is the eighth district and we have the Coastal district
34 which is like Hooper Bay and Chevak area. So that's how we
35 organize ourselves into the clusters of districts; six
36 commercial fishing districts, Yukon Flats 5(D), Koyukuk
37 River, and Coastal District. So nine sort of
38 representational areas.

39
40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: So it only represents like
41 half the state then?

42
43 MR. ALBRECHT: What's that?

44
45 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You only represent like
46 half the state, just the upper Yukon area, is that.....

47
48 MR. ALBRECHT: No, no, the entire Yukon
49 drainage, from the mouth to the Canadian border.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, so like the Tanana,
2 the Copper River?

3
4 MR. ALBRECHT: The Tanana is part of District
5 6 and the Tanana River is a membership district for the whole
6 Tanana River. Actually it's defined as District 6 -- it's
7 called District 6, but factually speaking again it's the
8 whole upper Tanana. We do have like, well, a guy in
9 Fairbanks which is kind of outside of -- sport fishing guy
10 who's on our association.

11
12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You said a guy from
13 Fairbanks?

14
15 MR. ALBRECHT: We have Philip Titus' brother
16 who's a member from Northway, Philip signed him up. And then
17 we've had, occasionally, some members from up above, like say
18 District 6(B) or whatever.

19
20 MR. JAMES: So I guess what I was referring
21 to is I guess anybody could join the organization from
22 anyplace in Alaska or the United States?

23
24 MR. ALBRECHT: Well, they have to be a user
25 on the Yukon drainage. They have to be either.....

26
27 MR. JAMES: Well, how do you define users?

28
29 MR. ALBRECHT: Well, there's commercial
30 permit holders, theirs subsistence users. We have a category
31 of general public but they do have to choose a membership
32 district. But like when you're a member, one thing an
33 individual member gives you the right to do is cast a ballot
34 for who's going to be the person from your area to represent
35 you at the annual meeting.

36
37 MR. JAMES: What I'm saying is that the
38 tribal villages are being -- you know, you don't have to go
39 through them to get their okay -- or just a processor or
40 commercial, sport fishers, subsistence all in one
41 organization?

42
43 MR. ALBRECHT: Right. It's the users of the
44 drainage, right. And what -- I mean we're just an
45 association, we say things, people can ignore us, people can
46 tell us to go jump in the lake. But all we're trying to do
47 is when we formed in the 1990s we formed for the purpose of
48 bringing people on the Yukon together to talk to each other.
49 To work on issues. Whether it's Area M interception,
50 hatcheries pumping out fish until the cows come home,

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1 trawlers intercepting fish, U.S./Canada issues, subsistence
2 management plans, commercial issues, salmon marketing,
3 anything that works for the benefit of the Yukon people, the
4 logging issue on the Tanana, the mining issues, whatever it
5 is -- even the white fish thing. People from Minto came to
6 us on that white fish issue, we did a resolution in support
7 of them and took it to the Board of Fisheries about white
8 fish. We don't do a lot of fresh water stuff but if somebody
9 comes to us and says, could you do a resolution about this,
10 be it logging or white fish, we'll do something about it.

11
12 But yeah, you're correct, it's not tribally
13 organized. But see the caveat is is that when we formed the
14 association nobody wanted to get screwed, right, or outvoted,
15 so it's like, okay, well, we'll do it on consensus. But the
16 good thing about consensus is it forces people to compromise
17 and work with each other and come up with something that's
18 agreeable to all rather than counting votes and saying, oh,
19 okay, this part of the river outvotes the other part of the
20 river and then we're back to square one and we're all talking
21 lawsuits and calling each other names up and down the rivers.

22
23 MR. JAMES: Well, that was my concern and I
24 was leading towards that. There are people from Koyukon was
25 making decisions on our behalf on the Yukon Flats and we
26 don't -- and they're about 600 miles away, and how was this
27 thing divided up, you know, that was my question?

28
29 MR. ALBRECHT: Well, that's why we changed
30 the bylaws when we were meeting in Alakanuk. We've always --
31 before we used to have two board members and one alternate
32 for both the Koyukuk and sort of the Flats, and normally that
33 worked okay. We were going to amend the bylaws anyway, one
34 board member had to be from the Koyukuk and one from the
35 Flats and it brought up -- Trish and Gary brought it up and
36 saying, well, why don't we just have our own Yukon Flats, so
37 we did that. We changed the bylaws last year and now we have
38 Yukon Flats 5(D) and they have one board member and one
39 alternate and the Koyukuk River has its own board member and
40 alternate. So now it's very clear that -- and we even have
41 a provision that if nobody, who's the voting member, is
42 present from the area then the board can appoint somebody
43 just for that meeting if they're from the region to speak for
44 the region, which is what we did last year at Alakanuk
45 because our voting people were not there but somebody else
46 was. Like Clifford, Clifford was there and he wasn't
47 technically the board member but we said, okay, Clifford you
48 can vote.

49
50 MR. JAMES: So how well do you coordinate

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1 with the Fish and Game advisory committees that already,
2 they're not designated by the State to make this kind of
3 decisions? Do you just supersede them or do you.....

4
5 MR. ALBRECHT: I don't say that we supersede
6 them. We provide a different forum. Fish and Game advisory
7 committees -- well, we view it as, we just try to bring
8 different folks together. A lot of the people who are in our
9 association are also on the advisory committees, okay. Some
10 of the members of the advisory councils, Philip Titus is not
11 on -- used to be -- is a member of our -- a board member for
12 the Tanana River for our association. Angela Demientieff
13 from the Western Interior is a board member for her area for
14 our association. And then Terry Wilde from the Yukon-
15 Kuskokwim is the chair of that council is also our co-chair,
16 too.

17
18 But I don't see that we supersede the Fish and Game
19 advisory committees, we just -- we're just another voice at
20 the Board of Fisheries or in any other forum but we don't
21 meet as often as the advisory committees. It's physically
22 not -- financial -- well, right now it's not financially
23 feasible to do that.

24
25 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

26
27 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

28
29 MR. GOOD: Do you have your membership broken
30 out? Since you do have individual memberships.....

31
32 MR. ALBRECHT: Yeah.

33
34 MR. GOOD:do you have it broken out as
35 to where you have the greater concentrations of members? For
36 instance.....

37
38 MR. ALBRECHT: Yeah.

39
40 MR. GOOD: You know, could we actually see
41 something like that so we could.....

42
43 MR. ALBRECHT: Yeah, I could get that. It's
44 kind of about cajoling money out of people, you know.

45
46 MR. GOOD: Well, I'm just thinking in terms
47 of if you have individual members, individual votes, the
48 numbers that you have in a given area would seem to be more
49 influential, although, I also understand that you're talking
50 consensus here, too.

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1 MR. ALBRECHT: Yeah, not really because the
2 individual members basically, they get the newsletter and
3 they get -- actually everybody on the river gets the
4 newsletter. The individual members, they get the ballots and
5 they vote for people, but for practically any policy issue is
6 basically dealt with at the annual meeting. In other words,
7 we -- right now we haven't had an issue that, you know, we've
8 taken to the full membership for a vote, it's kind of
9 unworkable. What we try to do is we appoint people -- they
10 vote on the people who represent them at the annual meeting
11 and on the conference calls is how it works. So the
12 individual members -- I mean like I said, this area has, I'm
13 trying to think, maybe 10 or 12 members for the Yukon Flats
14 5(D) area, you know, Y-1 and Y-2, and you have 30 or 50
15 members each or something like that. But practically
16 speaking from a policy level it's basically, you know, the
17 board of directors and the alternates are the folks at the
18 annual meetings. But yeah, we can get you a break down and
19 stuff, and if you want to sign more people up, great.

20
21 But I'm going to get into more of -- these are more
22 issues for -- because I do want to give a little presentation
23 when you do talk about the Federal fisheries thing. I got
24 handouts about who are board of directors, you know, what are
25 the things we do, and we have a newsletter that we just got
26 printed out, which is in the mail, and I've got like 50
27 copies of that, too.

28
29 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, and we're running
30 kind of behind so.....

31
32 MR. ALBRECHT: Okay.

33
34 CHAIRMAN MILLER:so we'll just have
35 Elizabeth and Polly Wheeler.

36
37 MS. ANDREWS: Good morning, my name is
38 Elizabeth Andrews, Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
39 thank you for inviting us to the table here. I wasn't sure
40 exactly what you were going to be covering in the work
41 session this morning so certainly no prepared speech. And I
42 just wanted to mention a couple of things in general and I've
43 just been trying to get the drift of the types of
44 presentations that you're requesting at this point.

45
46 I understand yesterday you heard a presentation about
47 the subsistence salmon harvest survey on the Yukon, that was
48 at the advisory committee meeting.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, but most of the members

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1 weren't at that meeting.

2

3 MS. ANDREWS: Oh, I see.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: The council members were in
6 travel status.

7

8 MS. ANDREWS: Okay, well, we might want to
9 take a few minutes then and ask Bonnie Borba who heads up our
10 subsistence salmon harvest monitoring program for the Yukon
11 for the Department to describe that for you. It's an intense
12 -- it's a comprehensive survey in all of the communities, it
13 tries to reach almost all of the households in the drainage.
14 And that is the key part of the harvest monitoring program in
15 the drainage.

16

17 The Department of Fish and Game has been managing
18 subsistence fisheries, as many of you know, since statehood.
19 For over 20 years we've even had a full subsistence priority.
20 But we did have subsistence fisheries and subsistence
21 management on the books even before there was the actual law
22 that then reinforced the subsistence priority under the State
23 system. We've also had a harvest monitoring program for
24 salmon harvest going on approximately since 1961 so we're
25 approaching 40 years of subsistence salmon harvest surveys in
26 the Yukon drainage.

27

28 That information has been really important, not only
29 for the management of the fisheries of the Yukon but it's
30 been important for members of communities that have
31 participated in other areas as such as the Yukon River salmon
32 negotiations which began in 1985. And I know there's always
33 been some membership from Fort Yukon participating in those
34 salmon negotiations but that group has always had a
35 delegation of residents from the Yukon River villages as the
36 advisors to those negotiations, and that's been going on
37 since 1985. And we meet, generally, but not always, a couple
38 of times with our Canadian counterparts because of the rest
39 of the river over there. So with the involvement of the
40 Department with the people from the communities during the
41 negotiation process, the subsistence salmon harvest
42 monitoring program, it's been really instrumental for
43 insuring that Alaskans along the river have been able to
44 still fish as part of the international obligations to
45 Canada, that subsistence has continued to be a priority and
46 hasn't been sold out in favor of some negotiation strategy
47 that the Canadians have wanted. So that's been very
48 important.

49

50 Another arena where the subsistence salmon harvest

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1 information has been important is in the process that Dan
2 Albrecht has described with the Yukon River Drainage
3 Association. And our staff as well as the Yukon River
4 delegates to the salmon negotiations, the Yukon River member
5 communities and districts with the Yukon Drainage
6 Association, we've all worked together to develop these
7 fishing management plans for Yukon River salmon. So it's all
8 been in concert with the member committees, as I say in the
9 salmon negotiations have played into that. And so we've been
10 doing that since 1990. So I just wanted to give a little bit
11 of background there.

12
13 I also wanted to introduce you to Polly Wheeler,
14 she's the Subsistence Division Interior Regional Program
15 manager. She also covers Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta as well as
16 the Northwest Arctic Region. She has everything essentially
17 north of the Alaska range, and so I just wanted to introduce
18 her. So she's going to speak for a few minutes about some of
19 the research programs that the Division has and the
20 coordinated efforts with our fisheries managers and then
21 Bonnie will speak a few minutes about the harvest monitoring
22 program.

23
24 MS. WHEELER: Yeah, as Elizabeth said, I'm
25 Polly Wheeler and I'm the new Elizabeth. I actually have
26 Elizabeth's old job at the Subsistence Division. I'm sorry
27 I wasn't here earlier, I didn't expect to be here -- I didn't
28 think you were starting until 11:00 otherwise I would have
29 been here earlier.

30
31 But the Subsistence Division is a research division.
32 We're not a management division, we are a research division.
33 Some of the research projects that we are currently working
34 on which would affect you would be one that Dave Andersen --
35 Dave Andersen's my staff person for Interior and he's working
36 on, as you're probably all well aware of, the fish for dogs
37 issue has come up once again, using king salmon to feed dogs
38 as an issue, and it's come up. And Dave actually just got
39 back from Eagle a couple of weeks ago where he's been working
40 on interviewing mushers and talking to people about what they
41 actually feed their dogs, what they use their dogs for. It
42 may be that in time we'll expand that project. But right
43 now, because even with a catalyst for that issue, we're
44 focusing on Eagle and we may expand further. Dave will be
45 giving a report to the Board of Fish work session coming up
46 at the end of this month and then again in March he'll give
47 an expanded version of that report at the Board of Fish
48 meeting in March.

49
50 We coordinate with Comm Fish who does the subsistence

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1 surveys along the Yukon River. We do coordinate with Comm
2 Fish and keep track of what's going on with the fisheries as
3 well as talking to people in the different villages to find
4 out what's going on with their subsistence salmon fisheries.
5

6 And as we sort of talked about, I talked to Davey,
7 certainly about a possibility of maybe doing some migratory
8 bird work, but again, we tend to, at least, lately do more
9 issue related work because that's what -- you know, if
10 something comes up as an issue and that's what we focus on.
11 As we talked about last night, for those of you who were
12 here, we've been real involved in the Koyukuk River Moose
13 Hunter's Working Group that wildlife conservation is
14 spearheading, but we've been advising in that and we've been
15 working -- the Division has been working with wildlife
16 conservation also on the intensive management for moose and
17 on the community harvest quota in Chalkyitsik.
18

19 So I guess I'll just -- I could go on and on, but you
20 guys have a big agenda ahead of you. So I'll be here for the
21 next few days so if you have any questions of me or of Dave,
22 by all means ask them.
23

24 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

25
26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.
27

28 MR. GOOD: We keep hearing, you know,
29 personal use and subsistence, could you just briefly state
30 why we have two categories and how they're related to each
31 other? Is that possible.
32

33 MS. BORBA: Yeah, I can speak to that.
34 Personal use has been bounced around for a number of years.
35 It used to be based on where you lived and then if you went
36 somewhere else to fish you were still considered personal
37 use. Now a days it's -- it's currently been, for a number of
38 years, personal use is set up in areas around the state and
39 they're non-subsistence areas and the only one in the Yukon
40 River drainage is around Fairbanks, like in the Fairbanks
41 Borough there. So that section of the river, if you come
42 from another area but you fish in that area you're considered
43 personal use. And it's basically -- they're set up around
44 those high population areas, where if everybody from
45 Fairbanks wanted to go fish right there at the Tanana they
46 could get to fish. So they have limits. They also get
47 permits just like the subsistence fishermen on the Tanana
48 River, but the personal use permits have a fisheries limit
49 and each fisherman is limited by so much for kings and chums
50 just in that area.

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1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

2
3 MS. ANDREWS: Yeah, thank you. I'd like to
4 add a little bit to that. One thing is that personal use has
5 no priority in the State management system, subsistence use
6 is the priority use. And similar to the Federal program,
7 subsistence uses are the customary and traditional uses. So
8 other uses of fisheries resources that are not customary and
9 traditional, and therefore, don't have a subsistence
10 priority, can be personal uses which is a domestic use.
11 People bring home and use the fisheries for food, they're not
12 going after a trophy or sport, and then that's a sport
13 fishery and it's not commercial because it's not sale. So it
14 doesn't have a priority and it doesn't describe a customary
15 and traditional pattern like subsistence use does.

16
17 MR. JAMES: Ma'am -- Elizabeth. Elizabeth,
18 you brought up the Yukon Flats a few minutes ago and I'd like
19 to ask you a question on that. The people in the Yukon Flats
20 there, you know, depend on that negotiation process, and have
21 been going on for numbers of years. And all of our stocks
22 come from Canada. And what do you see in your foreseeable
23 future about negotiations being reached with Canada?

24
25 MS. ANDREWS: Well, what David's referring to
26 is when you mentioned the Yukon Panel which isn't in
27 existence anymore but it was Congressionally authorized as an
28 interim measure of dealing with the Yukon River salmon
29 negotiations, and I believe you're a member or you have a
30 member of that. We will be having another negotiation
31 meeting with the Canadians, we expect, in the middle of
32 November, another five day session to see where we're at. We
33 have not made a lot of progress with the Canadians because
34 we've had a pretty firm position that we are not going to
35 allow any reductions in our existing fisheries in order to
36 provide fish for the Canadians. At the same time, as David
37 mentioned, a lot of the fish, if not all of them in this
38 region, certainly, spawn in Canada and, therefore, we have to
39 insure that those spawning grounds are protected in Canada
40 also and don't fall subject to mining interests or timber
41 interests or so forth or that the habitat is jeopardized
42 because of that. So we'll be having our next session in
43 November and right now I can't say what the prospects are,
44 it's different every single negotiation session we have.

45
46 MR. SILAS: This personal use around
47 Fairbanks, like take for example, Howard Luke's fish camp,
48 how do you add the allocations he gets to this?

49
50 MS. ANDREWS: The fish camp that you're

00039

1 referring to that Howard Luke operates in the summer, that's
2 under an educational permit that the Department issues
3 and.....

4
5 MS. BORBA: Sport fish.

6
7 MS. ANDREWS: Pardon?

8
9 MS. BORBA: Sport fish.

10
11 MS. ANDREWS: Sport Fish Division. So I
12 don't know if John.....

13
14 MR. BURR: I'm still here.

15
16 MS. ANDREWS: John, does your shop issue that
17 actual permit?

18
19 MR. BURR: Apparently so. It has not ever
20 been clear to me exactly why the Sport Fish Division is
21 involved in issuing those permits but yes, we review the
22 scientific collection permits and the educational permits.

23
24 MS. ANDREWS: Okay. I mean that's it. There
25 are educational permits that are issued, there's a statute
26 that allows us to do that. We issue a number of educational
27 permits around the state. We issue one to the Kenaitze and
28 to Eklutna, for example. We issue some in Southeast Alaska.
29 Howard Luke's educational program is issued a permit for the
30 take of salmon there.

31
32 MR. SILAS: Yeah, thank you. As you move on
33 down the river, for this personal use, there's Native
34 allotments down there, do you manage those, too, how is that?

35
36 MS. ANDREWS: I'm sorry, Knowland, could you
37 repeat that?

38
39 MR. SILAS: Other Native allotments in this
40 personal use area around Fairbanks, there's some Native fish
41 camps around there, how do you -- do you give them an
42 allotment or how do you do that?

43
44 MS. ANDREWS: That would still fall under
45 just the personal use regulations and we have set limits for
46 that no matter who comes in and fishes in that area. If they
47 were an educational program, then they could apply for a
48 different type of permit.

49
50 MR. SILAS: Okay, you kind of gave me an

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1 answer to the question. But as you add these subsistence
2 area, we'll get into the Native allotments and don't you have
3 a Federal protection for the Fish and Game on those lands,
4 too?

5
6 MS. ANDREWS: That would, you know, the
7 Federal staff here could answer that. I believe that if it's
8 patented then it falls under the State regulations and if it
9 hasn't been it falls under Federal regulations. It was just
10 indicated by a Federal staff member that that's how it works.
11 So it depends on the status of the allotments, if it's been
12 patented or not.

13
14 MR. SILAS: Okay. The reason I'm getting
15 into this is I fish with a friend from Nenana, he's up in
16 this area right in the border. That sort of answers it.

17
18 MS. ANDREWS: Well, that's exactly the type
19 of questions we'll be getting into that, you know, people
20 will have to find out with each example, am I in this
21 situation or am I in this situation and which set of
22 regulations are going to apply to me.

23
24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Lincoln.

25
26 MR. L. TRITT: Polly, you know, Native
27 subsistence education, teaching children how the -- about
28 fish and wildlife and all that sort, it's a big part of
29 subsistence, you know. And that education permit answers to
30 a certain extent, but do you have a place in your Department
31 or in your program for teaching along the river?

32
33 MS. WHEELER: I guess I don't.....

34
35 MR. L. TRITT: When people fish, especially
36 around here, they take their kids with them most times.

37
38 MS. WHEELER: Uh-huh.

39
40 MR. L. TRITT: And do you have any kind of
41 program for that other than this education permits you guys
42 are talking about?

43
44 MS. WHEELER: Well, if you're in a
45 subsistence -- you know, if you're in a subsistence area then
46 you can do -- you can subsistence fish and that's certainly
47 a recognized, at least from the State's perspective, of
48 what's involved in subsistence is passing down the, you know,
49 teaching people and passing down the lore. So if you're in
50 a State subsistence area, then yeah, that's what's.....

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1 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, I'm thinking that should
2 also go along -- apply to the State officials, to keep the
3 learning -- what they're really learning out there.

4
5 MS. WHEELER: Well, I guess, you know, in the
6 work that the Subsistence Division has done, typically, our
7 staff, as small as we are, still manages to go out and work
8 in communities and that's a core part of what our program
9 actually is, is we go out and we stay in communities and
10 learn about what's going on. I don't know if you've seen any
11 of the technical papers that we do but that's a core part of
12 actually looking at what people are doing and how they're
13 doing it.

14
15 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Bonnie.

16
17 MS. BORBA: Okay, you guys wanted a quick
18 rundown of the subsistence for the Yukon River.

19
20 REPORTER: Wait a second, wait a second, could you
21 please state your name for the record.

22
23 MS. BORBA: Bonnie Borba, Alaska Department
24 of Fish and Game. I have a few copies left from yesterday's
25 presentation, some of you guys saw them and CATG asked me to
26 get at their advisory committee a rundown on what we do for
27 subsistence on the Yukon area.

28
29 Basically we cover the whole Yukon River drainage and
30 all five species of salmon are harvested in here. It also
31 includes the Innoko, the Koyukuk, the Tanana, Chandalar,
32 Nushagak, Black River, so we're looking at all the
33 communities in the area. The map on Page 2, what we were
34 talking about earlier, is the subsistence and permit areas.
35 Most of the Yukon is subsistence areas and most of it we do
36 surveys on. The only places, they're shaded, dark shading is
37 the subsistence permit areas and the light shading is that
38 personal use area around Fairbanks. Basically the whole
39 Tanana River is a permit area. If you fish in there it's
40 some type of -- either a subsistence or a personal use permit
41 that's required. The other areas are around the Haul Road
42 bridge area is a subsistence permit. And 22 miles just
43 upstream here from Fort Yukon to the border, Canadian border,
44 also requires a subsistence permit. And basically those
45 areas were set up because they have road access when they
46 originally put in where the permits were going to be. So the
47 data is collected then by the return of the permit. The
48 people -- they get the permits free for subsistence, they get
49 the permit, they record their harvest on the back and then
50 they return them at the end of the season and we tally up the

00042

1 harvest in that way.

2

3 So the remainder of the Yukon River, because it's
4 just open subsistence, we do surveys. We start down river
5 and work our way up because people are still fishing in the
6 upper region. We started down river this year September 7th.
7 And apparently, like Keith said, they're in the Koyukuk River
8 drainage and the middle Yukon, and we haven't done the upper
9 region yet. We're planning on doing that in the next week or
10 so.

11

12 On Page 3 it just shows that there's a lot of
13 communities in this area, there are 34 communities, thousands
14 of households, they're broken down into harvest categories
15 and the categories of unknown use, do not harvest, the light
16 harvesters and the medium and heavy harvesters and the
17 percentage of the people that we actually try to talk to.
18 And basically all medium and heavy harvesters, we want to
19 talk to all of them, and you can see the percentages of the
20 others that we do and it's a span for the other households,
21 and we collect the data that way.

22

23 On Page 4 is just a list of some of the questions
24 that we ask. We have to collect every year the contact
25 information and make sure the households are on the list and
26 make sure all their information is current. And the major
27 thing in this project is we're trying to collect subsistence
28 harvest information on salmon to make these estimates so we
29 ask them how many salmon do they catch. Another important
30 thing in the villages is how many fish they share with other
31 people and basically you just have to ask the person
32 harvesting the fish who they share them with so that we don't
33 double count them, then we go to that person's household and
34 -- where they got the fish. So sharing gets involved and it
35 gets a little more complicated.

36

37 We also have commercial related harvests. There's
38 not so much here but down in the middle Yukon there's a lot
39 of carcasses that are left over from like a low fishery and
40 those fish are available for subsistence use and a lot of
41 people use those, some in terms of dog food or whatever and
42 they give them away, those larger amounts down there. That's
43 where subsistence use comes in. These are people who don't
44 harvest fish or using the fish so we have to collect
45 information on that. And a lot of the fish are used for dogs
46 so we ask a lot of dog related questions. And one of the
47 final questions on the survey, we ask if people are meeting
48 their needs.

49

50 On the next page it just shows, estimated subsistence

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1 and personal use harvest in the Yukon area. There's
2 approximately 54,000 chinook annually, 132,000 summer chum,
3 111,000 fall chum, and 28,000 coho salmon; those are average
4 estimates on the subsistence surveys for the whole Yukon
5 River drainage including those permits and everything that
6 was returned. I also put on here a few of the freshwater
7 species. We began since '92 asking about these other
8 species. Approximately 75,000 white fish, 23,000 pike, and
9 16,000 sheefish are harvested annually for subsistence use.

10
11 On Page 6 I just used -- for what the survey is
12 collecting, the harvest may fluctuate a lot and fall chum was
13 the best example of seeing the fluctuations based on what
14 happened during the run and I list them on the bottom. This
15 only shows from 1984, but from 1984 through 1991 the harvest
16 of fall chum was relatively stable. And then after that all
17 these other things happened, in '92 there was high water in
18 the spring and early breakup, which reduced people's chinook
19 and fall chum, which is one of their -- the majority of the
20 fish that they take for human consumption and for dog food
21 and it really affected their harvest. And that's why you see
22 '92 dropping. In '93 we had those real poor returns of
23 salmon and we ended up doing subsistence restrictions and
24 closures in that year and as you can see that was one of the
25 lowest years. '94 we also had some subsistence restrictions
26 and closures, it dropped the harvest a little bit. '95 and
27 '96 are actually fairly close to average. There are some
28 commercial-related harvest that don't show on this that would
29 bring their harvest up near their average so they did all
30 right in those years, they made it. In '97 there was a poor
31 return, particularly on the Tanana River, and a lot of
32 fishermen from the village of Tanana and on the Tanana River
33 itself did not get their fish in time because they wait late
34 in the season to get them, for the cool weather and the fish
35 run turned out poor on the Tanana and it didn't meet their
36 needs and it did drop the harvest there. And 1998 was also
37 a poor fall chum season and we had to go through some
38 subsistence restrictions there, and again, the harvest
39 reflected it by dropping again, another low -- it was a
40 pretty low year.

41
42 Page 7 is just some information that we collected on
43 the average number of dogs per households. Besides -- I
44 think it's about an average of 8,000 dogs in the drainage
45 that are fed over 225,000 salmon each year, and those are
46 just -- that's a minimum number on the fish fed to dogs. But
47 using this information you can also look at the use of dogs
48 and in the lower river there's the lower number of households
49 that have a higher -- a certain amount of dogs and when you
50 get up river there's more houses with dogs but most of those

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1 houses have a larger number of dogs than you would find down
2 river, and that affects on how much harvest you need. Up
3 river tends to harvest a lot of fish for dogs because of
4 that.

5
6 And then Page 8 is just back to that question of
7 needs, and we ask that to everybody during the surveys, it
8 doesn't get on the actual permit stuff. And it fluctuates
9 the same as what's shown in the fall chum estimates that I
10 showed you earlier, was '92 that early winter and the high
11 water spring really affected people's harvest. '93 and '94
12 were the restrictions. '95 and '96 there's always some that
13 don't meet their needs in that 20 percent range and that's
14 usually -- when we ask them why they didn't meet their needs
15 it's been they were working in another occupation or they
16 didn't have a boat or fishing gear and couldn't get to fish.
17 And then last year, again, in 1998, people had a hard time
18 meeting their needs because of the subsistence restrictions
19 in the fall and the king run was fairly poor and there was a
20 lot of poor looking fish last year. And it affected their
21 needs and so it reflects in the data that we collected.

22
23 The rest of the pages on the handout are -- the first
24 table is by community. We actually do the surveys in each
25 community and it's broken down by these districts that we
26 talked about earlier, the commercial district, so it will say
27 District, 1, 2, 3, and then you have to add in the other
28 drainages, the Innoko, Koyukuk which aren't in a commercial
29 district. And the 1998 data for this table -- now, all the
30 remainder ones are -- from 1984 to 1998, plus the five year
31 average so all that data is in there for average catch and
32 catch by year for every village. And we collect this data
33 and it's used for in-season management. It's used for
34 Canadian negotiations which we talked about earlier. And
35 there's the Alaska Board of Fisheries, this information will
36 go to them whenever there's a subsistence issue that comes
37 up.

38
39 So if there's any other questions about how we
40 conduct them and we'll try to have -- we're collecting the
41 data right now and you could try to get the report from John
42 annually every year and we'll have it this spring for this
43 season so we have it ready for the next season to start.

44
45 Any questions?

46
47 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Vince.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think I need an
50 assessment from you if this is what you kind of wanted in a

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1 workshop. This was kind of thrown together at the last
2 minute during a break so I hope that you would thank all the
3 individuals, that they were put on the spot in a very short
4 notice, and we had police cars going around and rounding them
5 up off the street and stuff. So in the future if this is
6 what you want then we need to program this in and give them
7 time to do this. I think for them being called on the spot
8 they really did an excellent job. But is this what you're
9 looking for in a work session?

10
11 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, you know, a work
12 session like this, you know, now that we're having fisheries
13 it was kind of nice to get a forerun of how things are being
14 run compared to, you know, what changes might be made later
15 on.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Is this how you would want it
18 structured when we actually deal with fisheries? I'm not for
19 it or against it, I just need to know how to structure the
20 meetings so we can program these people in better at that
21 time. Would you like to have a section where we just have
22 open discussion and then go into actual action; is that.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I think that works better
25 from my opinion, I don't know how the Board would feel about
26 it.

27
28 MR. NICHOLIA: I think it would work pretty
29 good so we don't have to bounce all over on the agenda.

30
31 CHAIRMAN MILLER: It kind of refreshes us on
32 our memory on different things.

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Because really they were
35 just called on break to do this so it.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, you all did pretty
38 good.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: And I don't know if they'll
41 have to do it again later in the agenda, I think you're going
42 to have to seriously look at that.

43
44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, I think there's some
45 questions that have come up that might be, you know, might be
46 able to be asked later on.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And then for those that
49 were called on the spot, my e-mail doesn't take four-letter
50 words so don't please send me a whole bunch of e-mails. But

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1 I think it was great that they did do this. It was, you
2 know, difficult for them to figure out what to say. I think
3 down the road we need to help them structure that a little
4 bit more and give them more time to do whatever they need to
5 do to present the materials.

6
7 MR. NICHOLIA: This more or less gave us a
8 clue on what we'll be facing in the upcoming years and stuff,
9 and so how we could submit recommendations or advice to the
10 Federal Subsistence Board, how to manage subsistence
11 fisheries on Federal controlled lands, and I'd like to thank
12 you guys for that.

13
14 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Ready for lunch?

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: For those that did come
17 expecting the meeting to start at 11:00, we kind of went over
18 with our work session into the 11:00 o'clock time but it was
19 flowing. So for those that are wondering where we're at we
20 completed the work session, go over the agenda and there was
21 thoughts of just discussing fisheries in general. So I think
22 after lunch we'll get back on to the agenda and go through
23 all that. So David what were the arrangements on lunch, if
24 any, were we all transiting out to the.....

25
26 MR. JAMES: Yeah.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS:Voc Ed Center?

29
30 MS. WAGGONER: Yeah.

31
32 MR. JAMES: We got vans out there.

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, what time should we tell
35 people to come back here?

36
37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: One o'clock.

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Is 1:00 o'clock, can we get
40 everybody up there and back and up there and back?

41
42 CHAIRMAN MILLER: That's an hour and 10
43 minutes, I don't know what do you think, an hour and a half?

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: I would tend to think it might
46 be better to look at 1:30 as a more realistic time.

47
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, 1:30.

49
50 (END OF WORK SESSION)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
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WORK SESSION, taken electronically by Salena Hile on the 5th
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THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
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Joseph P. Kolasinski
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